

What Is Claimed Is:

1. In a surgical electrode having an anchor, the improvement wherein said anchor is coated with a bioabsorbable material.

5 2. The improved surgical electrode of Claim 1, wherein said bioabsorbable material is a polymer made from an organic monomer.

3. The improved surgical electrode of Claim 2, wherein said coating is selected from a group consisting of glycosides; a L-lactide; a D-lactide; a meso-lactide; 1,4-dioxan-2-one, trimethylene carbonate; and ε-caprolactone.

10 4. The improved surgical electrode of Claim 1, wherein said anchor has a barbed harpoon-like shape.

5. The improved surgical electrode of Claim 4, wherein said anchor has a single barb.

15 6. The improved surgical electrode of Claim 5, wherein said surgical electrode is made from an electrically conductive wire having a generally circular shape in transverse cross-section.

7. The improved surgical electrode of Claim 6, wherein said barb is made from a flattened section of said wire.

20 8. The improved surgical electrode of Claim 7, wherein said flattened section of said anchor includes a pair of substantially flat, planar surfaces lying on opposite sides of a plane containing a central longitudinal axis of said wire, whereby said barb has a generally rectangular shape in transverse cross section.

9. The improved surgical electrode of Claim 8, wherein said flattened section of said anchor has an asymmetrical shape.

10. The improved surgical electrode of Claim 9, wherein said wire has a multi-strand construction.

5 11. The improved surgical electrode of Claim 10, wherein said anchor, including said barb, is constrained by said bioabsorbable coating.

12. The improved surgical electrode of Claim 1, wherein said surgical electrode is a temporary cardiac pacing wire.

10 13. In a surgical electrode having an anchor, the improvement wherein said anchor has a harpoon-like shape with a single barb.

14. The improved surgical electrode of Claim 13, wherein said surgical electrode is made from an electrically conductive wire having a generally circular shape in transverse cross-section.

15 15. The improved surgical electrode of Claim 14, wherein said barb is made from a flattened section of said wire.

16. The improved surgical electrode of Claim 15, wherein said flattened section of said anchor includes a pair of substantially flat, planar surfaces lying on opposite sides of a plane containing a central longitudinal axis of said wire, whereby said barb has a generally rectangular shape in transverse cross section.

20 17. The improved surgical electrode of Claim 16, wherein said flattened section of said anchor has an asymmetrical shape.

18. The improved surgical electrode of Claim 17, wherein said wire has a multi-strand construction.

19. The improved surgical electrode of Claim 18, wherein said anchor, including said barb, is constrained by said bioabsorbable coating.

20. The improved surgical electrode of Claim 13, wherein said surgical electrode is a temporary cardiac pacing wire.

5 21. A process for making a constrained anchor for a surgical electrode, comprising the steps of providing a bare electrode wire; shaping said electrode wire into a harpoon-like shape; and coating said electrode wire with a bioabsorbable material.

22. The process of Claim 21, wherein said harpoon-like shape has a single barb.

23. The process of Claim 22, further comprising the step of flattening said barb.

10 24. The process of Claim 23, wherein said flattened barb is constrained by said bioabsorbable material.